APPENDIX J
GRAZING SYSTEMS

REST-ROTATION GRAZING SYSTEM

A rest-rotation grazing system will graze a prescribed number of livestock through a series of pastures for a given period of time while deferring certain of these pastures from grazing. The objective of the system is to produce seed of desirable forage species, to trample the seed, and then to rest the pasture to allow the seedlings to become established.

The grazing livestock act as agents to increase the density of desirable plants as well as the vigor of existing plants, and provide additional litter for soil protection. The system can be used to better control wind and water erosion (USDA, FS 1965a; Hormay 1970; USDA, FS 1972; Ratliff and Reppert 1974).

DEFERRED-ROTATION GRAZING SYSTEM

A deferred-rotation grazing system provides for a systematic rotation of pastures in which grazing is either delayed or discontinued to provide for plant reproduction, establishment of new plants, or restoration of the vigor of existing plants (Society of Range Management 1974).

One or more pastures are grazed during the spring, while the remaining one or more pastures are rested until after seed ripening of key species and then grazed. Deferred-rotation grazing differs from rest-rotation grazing in that no yearlong rest is provided.

DEFERRED GRAZING SYSTEM

A deferred grazing system is similar to deferred-rotation except the pastures in the allotment are not systematically rotated (Society of Range Management 1974). Under this system, grazing would begin after key plants have reached an advanced stage of development in their annual growth cycle. The growing season rest provided by this system promotes plant reproduction, establishment of new plants, or restoration of the vigor of old plants.

ALTERNATE GRAZING SYSTEM

Alternate grazing is grazing by livestock every other season, with the area being rested in the alternate year.

SHORT-DURATION, HIGH-INTENSITY GRAZING SYSTEM

High-intensity grazing permits short-duration grazing with the stocking rate higher than what would be considered normal. The purpose of this type of system is to obtain uniform use of all plants, desirable and undesirable alike, and to prevent regrazing on regrowth of the most desirable plants. This system allows desirable plants to compete for nutrients on an equal basis with less desirable plants.